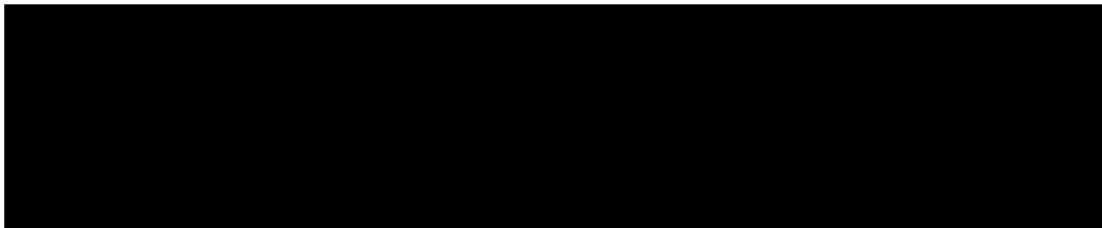


CONFIDENTIAL

SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

HANOI PROPAGANDA CLAIMS OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES
FROM U.S. AIR STRIKES AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM

STATSPEC



17 MARCH 1967

CONFIDENTIAL

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

CONFIDENTIAL

17 MARCH 1967

STATSPEC

HANOI PROPAGANDA CLAIMS OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES
FROM U.S. AIR STRIKES AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM

FOREWORD

This report provides a chronological listing of Hanoi propaganda claims of civilian casualties resulting from U.S. air strikes against North Vietnam.

Table I presents the findings from an examination of all available propaganda from the Hanoi radio and the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY (VNA) for claims of specific numbers of civilian casualties during the period December 1966 through February 1967. During this period, North Vietnamese media publicized a succession of reports by international teams "investigating war crimes" which included casualty figures for various periods since February 1965; only casualties alleged in these reports to have taken place during the December 1966-February 1967 period are included in the table.

To provide some idea of the extent and nature of civilian casualty claims in earlier periods, an examination was also made of protest messages from the Vietnam People's Army (VPA) to the ICC, as reported by VNA, from the inception of the air strikes in February 1965 through November 1966. The results are shown in Table II.

It is difficult to arrive at an accurate total of casualty figures claimed by Hanoi for any given period, since the same figures may appear in different reports without enough specific information to make it possible to identify them definitely as repetitions. Duplication has been avoided to the extent possible in the tables. It will be noted, for example, that North Vietnamese propaganda on the air strikes in the Hanoi area on 2, 13, and 14 December 1966 repeatedly claimed that "more than" 100 civilians were killed or wounded in the three days taken together. Reports containing the 100-plus figure are noted in Table I but are not listed in the tally of casualties, which includes only the specific statistics on killed and wounded

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR EYES ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL

17 MARCH 1967

STATSPEC

that were claimed in more detailed reports on the individual strikes--a total of 152.

Only specific claims of actual numbers of casualties are tabulated. Excluded are the floods of reports from Hanoi about strikes causing "numerous" or "many" civilian casualties; a claim that "more than 10" were killed would be listed, with the figure 10 counted in the tally, but general references to "scores" or "dozens" of casualties are excluded.

The tally of alleged civilian casualties in December 1966 is 294
in January 1967 - 537
in February 1967 - 102

Of the total 933 alleged casualties in the three-month period, 269 were clearly specified as fatalities.

The VPA protests for the period February 1965 through November 1966 claim a total of 1,410 civilian casualties, 369 of them fatalities.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

17 MARCH 1967

- 1 -

STATSPEC

TABLE I: HANOI RADIO AND VPA CLAIMS

DECEMBER 1966 - FEBRUARY 1967

In column one the date of the statement, press article, or other source is the same as that of the VNA or Hanoi radio report unless otherwise indicated.

In column four, the first figure denotes number killed and the second the total number of casualties, killed and wounded.

SOURCE	DATE AND PLACE OF STRIKE	CIVILIAN CASUALTIES	TOTALS
<u>December 1966</u>			
3 Hanoi radio: Hanoi City Committee	2 outskirts of Hanoi	26 persons were killed and 28 wounded, including 9 women and 11 children	26/54
13 VNA and Hanoi radio: DRV War Crimes Commission	8 Vinh Phuc Province	26 inhabitants were killed and 87 others wounded including 52 women and 36 children	26/113
15 VNA: VPA protest to ICC	14 residential quarters in Hanoi	killing or wounding over 100 civilians*	
15 VNA: DRV Govt. statement	13 Hanoi 14	killing or wounding over 100 people*	
16 VNA: Pham Van Bach state- ment (lawyer)	13 Hanoi 14	more than 100 victims among the civilian population*	

* The general 100-plus figure is not listed in the tally, which includes only the specific figures on killed and wounded cited in reports on the individual strikes.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

17 MARCH 1967

- 2 -

STATSPEC

SOURCE	DATE AND PLACE OF STRIKE	CIVILIAN CASUALTIES	TOTALS
<u>December 1966 (continued)</u>			
17 VNA: NHAN DAN commentary	13 Hanoi and 14 outskirts	more than 100 civilians killed or wounded*	
18 VNA: NHAN DAN interview with Hanoi citizen	14 Hanoi	a pregnant woman was killed together with her 4-year-old child	2/2
22 VNA: DRV Foreign Min. Press & Info. Department	2 Hanoi suburbs 4 13 14	caused hundreds of casualties*	
	2 Hai Ba quarter	killing 1 civilian and wounding 7	1/8
	13 Dong Da quarter	killing 7 civilians, wounding 30	7/37
	13 Hoan Kiem quarter	killing 4 civilians, wounding 10	4/14
		killing 4 civilians, wounding 11	4/15
	14 Dong Da quarter	killing 5 civilians, wounding 11	5/16
31 VNA: VPA protest to ICC 31 Dec	31 Nam Ha Province	10 villagers were killed & 16 wounded	10/26
<u>January 1967</u>			
19 VNA: news item	15 Viet Tri 18	6 pupils killed; Catholic mother & son killed; mother & 2 children killed; mother & son killed	13/13**

* The general 100-plus figure is not listed in the tally, which includes only the specific figures on killed and wounded cited in reports on the individual strikes.

** This figure may also be included in the 22 January report of the DRV War Crimes Commission press conference.

CONFIDENTIAL

17 MARCH 1967

- 3 -

STATSPEC

SOURCE	DATE AND PLACE OF STRIKE	CIVILIAN CASUALTIES	TOTALS
<u>January 1967 (continued)</u>			
21 VNA: DRV War Crimes Commission press conference	14 Bac Thai Province 15 16	killed 35 civilians, wounded 106 others	35/141
22 VNA: DRV Foreign Ministry	20 Thanh Hoa Province	killing and wounding more than 100 civilians	/100
22 VNA: DRV War Crimes Commission press conference, 21 January	15 Viet Tri; Song Lo and Quat Thuong villages	killing 2 civilians and wounding 11 others, including 4 women and 5 children	2/13
	18 Viet Tri, Minh Nong village	28 people including 8 children killed; 61 others including 15 children wounded	28/89
	18 Viet Tri, Tien Cat village	killing 5 villagers including 3 of 9 members of one family and 2 children of another	5/5
	17 Thai Nguyen	killed 3 people includ- ing an old man and an old woman; killed 7 people and wounded 16 others, including 4 women & children; hit hospital, killing 1 person & wounding 6 others	11/33

CONFIDENTIAL

17 MARCH 1967

- 4 -

STATSPEC

SOURCE	DATE AND PLACE OF STRIKE	CIVILIAN CASUALTIES	TOTALS
--------	-----------------------------	------------------------	--------

January 1967 (continued)

24 VNA: news item	20 Ninh Binh Province	killed 22-year-old pregnant mat weaver & 3-year-old son	2/2
27 VNA: War Crimes Commission of Education Ministry	20 Ninh Binh Province, Tan Thanh school	killing 2 teachers & 4 pupils & wounding 6 pupils	6/12
29 VNA: Russell war crimes committee investigating team	28 Viet Tri, Minh Nong village, Hoa Phong hamlet	wounding a 60-year-old person & 2 children 5 and 9 years old	/3
31 VNA: VPA protest to ICC	29 Thanh Hoa Province, Yen Dinh district, Dinh Tan commune, Hoanh village	killed or wounded nearly 100 civilians; 8 old people & 5 pregnant women killed	13/100
	29 Thanh Hoa Province, Dinh Tien commune, Yen village	many civilians including 3 women & 2 children killed & many others wounded	5/5

February 1967

5 VNA: Russell war crimes team press conference, 3 February	29 Than Hoa, Dinh Jan. Tan commune	100 killed or wounded, including 22 children & 20 women, 5 pregnant*	
---	------------------------------------	--	--

* This figure was also cited in the VPA protest of 31 January.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

17. MARCH 1967

- 5 -

STATSPEC

SOURCE	DATE AND PLACE OF STRIKE	CASUALTIES	TOTALS
--------	-----------------------------	------------	--------

February 1967 (continued)

5 VNA: Russell war crimes team press conference, 3 Feb.	29 Jan.	Vinh An commune nursery hit, 8 children under 5 killed, 3 others wounded	8/11
6 VNA: Russell war crimes team press conference, 3 Feb.	22 Dec.	Thanh Hoa Province, Hai Ninh 9 killed, including two children	9/9
	25 Jan.	Thanh Hoa Province, Hai Ninh 3 students & 1 teacher wounded	/4
18 VNA: Russell war crimes team communique	Jan.	Bang La village near Haiphong 3 pregnant women & 2 children killed	5/5
22 VNA: VPA protest	21 Feb.	Thai Binh 11 civilians dead, 7 others wounded	11/18

March 1967

6 VNA: DRV War Crimes Commission	14 Feb.	Quang Binh Province, Quy Hau hamlet 30 civilians killed, including 10 women; 54 others wounded	30/84
7 VNA: Krivine, member of Russell war crimes team	16 Jan.	Vinh Phuc Province female teacher killed	1/1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

17 MARCH 1967

- 6 -

STATSPEC

TABLE II: VIETNAM PEOPLE'S ARMY (VPA) PROTESTS TO ICC

[as reported by the VIETNAMESE NEWS AGENCY (VNA)]

FEBRUARY 1965 THROUGH NOVEMBER 1966

In column four, the first figure denotes number killed and the second the total number of casualties, killed and wounded.

PROTEST DATE	DATE AND PLACE OF STRIKE	CIVILIAN CASUALTIES	TOTALS
<u>1965</u>			
24 May	23 May Nghe An Province, Nghia Dan district; Thanh Hoa Province, Tho Xuan district	school & hospital in Nghia Dan & market in Tho Xuan, kill- ing or wounding 79 civilians, among them many children, women, & patients	/79
14 June	13 June Nghe An Province, Quynh Lap leper sanatorium	many people killed or wounded [A spate of propaganda over this alleged incident in- cluded the charge that 82 people were killed & 30 wounded]	*
5 July	2 July Nam Dinh	killed 11, wounded 65	11/76
7 July	5 July Thanh Hoa Pro- vince, Thieu Hoa district, Trung Son cooperative farm	killed 35 people & wounded 22 others, mostly old people, women & children	35/57

* Casualty figures for the leper sanatorium are included in the VPA protest of 12 May 1966.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

17 MARCH 1967

- 7 -

STATSPEC

PROTEST DATE	DATE AND PLACE OF STRIKE	CIVILIAN CASUALTIES	TOTALS
<u>1965</u>			
9 July	8 July Thanh Hoa provin- cial capital	raid on civilian houses & TB sana- torium of Cau Bo; 40 persons killed or wounded, includ- ing many old people, women, children, & patients	/40
23 July	Feb.-July Thanh Hoa Pro- vince	DRV Ministry of Public Health state- ment forwarded to ICC by VPA: Up to 11 July 1965, nearly 30 medical establish- ments in North Vietnam hit; strikes at Quynh Lap leper sanatorium & TB hospital in Thanh Hoa Province resulted in nearly 179 killed & more than 100 wounded	/60*
27 Sept.	25 Sept. Nghe An Pro- vince, Quynh Luu district, Quynh Phong village	secondary school, kill- ing or wounding 34 pupils	/34
30 Sept.	28 Sept. Nghe An Pro- vince, Nghi Loc district, Nghi Tien village	shelling from warships resulted in 4 people killed or wounded	/4

* Casualty figures for the leper sanatorium are included in the VPA protest of 12 May 1966. The casualty figure of 60 persons at the TB hospital was arrived at by subtracting the number of victims cited in the 12 May 1966 protest from the figure given in the DRV Ministry of Public Health statement for the sanatorium and the TB hospital.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

17 MARCH 1967

- 8 -

STATSPEC

PROTEST DATE	DATE AND PLACE OF STRIKE	CIVILIAN CASUALTIES	TOTALS
<u>1965</u>			
16 Oct.	12 Oct. Nghe An Province, Yen Thanh district, Bong market area	43 persons killed or wounded	/43
1 Nov.	29 Oct. Quang Binh Pro- vince, Tuyen Hoa district, Phong Hoa	primary school,, 4 pupils killed & a fifth wounded, all under 12 years	4/5
<u>1966</u>			
10 Feb.	9 Feb. Ha Tinh Province, Huong Khe dis- trict, Huong Phuc village	junior secondary school, 57 pupils under 15 years of age & 8 civilians killed or wounded	/65
26 Feb.	4 Feb. Quang Nam, Que Som district, Que Son village	Phu Dien first grade school, killing 6 pupils & wounding 13 others	6/19
	26 Jan. Chau Doc, (Chau My?) district, (My Tho?) & Thien My villages	killing or wounding over 30 persons, most of them old people & women	/30
	2 Feb. Kinh Thanh pass- enger boat en route to Ben Tre provincial town	killing or wounding 50 civilians; when boats came to rescue survivors, planes returned killing or wounding over 30 persons; over 80 civilians, including many old people, pregnant women, 11 children under 2 years killed or wounded	/80

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

17 MARCH 1967

- 9 -

STATSPEC

PROTEST DATE	DATE AND PLACE OF STRIKE	CIVILIAN CASUALTIES	TOTALS
<u>1966</u>			
26 Feb. (cont'd)	25 Feb. Nghe An Province, Hung Nguyen dis- trict, Hung Thai village	killing or wounding 46 persons, including 12 children	/46
4 Mar.	3 Mar. Phu Tho Province, Ha Doa district	killing or wounding 11 pupils & teachers in Dan Thuong school	/11
3 Mar.	25 Feb. Quang Binh Pro- vince, Le Thu district, Le Ninh state farm	kindergarten, 10 chil- dren from 3 to 6 years & 2 women teachers killed & 8 children & 6 persons wounded	12/26
19 Mar.	14 Mar. Thanh Hoa Pro- vince, Tinh Gia district, coastal communes	shelling by U.S. destroyers resulted in 28 civilians killed or wounded	/28
1 Apr.	Feb.-Mar. Ha Tinh, Huong Phuc junior high school	killed or wounded 57 pupils under 15 years	/57
	Feb.-Mar. Quang Binh Pro- vince, kinder- garten at Loc Ninh state farm	14 persons from 3 months to 6 years killed	14/14
	3 Mar. Phu Tho Pro- vince, Ha Thach	26 Catholics killed & 28 others wounded	26/54
22 Apr.	18 Apr. Ha Tinh Province, (Linh Cam?) & Huong Khe dis- tricts	killing 14 people, wounding 13	14/27
26 Apr.	23 Apr. Thanh Hoa Pro- vince, Tho Xuan district, Xuan Khanh commune	60 persons killed or wounded	/60

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

17 MARCH 1967

- 10 -

STATSPEC

PROTEST DATE	DATE AND PLACE OF STRIKE	CIVILIAN CASUALTIES	TOTALS
<u>1966</u>			
26 Apr. (cont'd)	24 Apr. Ninh Binh Province, Kim Son district, Kien Trung commune	116 persons, all Catholics, killed or wounded	/116
5 May	28 Apr. Quang Ninh Pro- vince, Long Chau Island near Haiphong	lighthouse hit, kill- ing 1 worker & wound- ing another	1/2
7 May	5 May Nghe An Province, Nghie Loc district, Nghie Dien commune, Xa Doai seminary	church & seminary were heavily damaged, & director of the seminary seriously injured	/1
12 May	6 May Nghe An Province, Quynh Luu dis- trict, Quynh Loc commune	Quynh Lap leprosarium hit, 30 patients killed & 34 others wounded, 10 of them seriously; U.S. air attacks on the leprosarium last June resulted in a toll of 139 patients & medical workers killed & 80 wounded	30/64 139/219
	June 1965	A week earlier, 1 priest was serious- ly wounded	/1
13 May	11 May Nghe An Pro- vince, Nghie Loc district, Ghai Dien commune, Xa Doai seminary	one child killed	1/1
14 May	12 May Thanh Hoa Pro- vince, Tinh Gia district, Ba Lang parish	killing 1 Catholic & destroying the church	1/1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

17 MARCH 1967

- 11 -

STATSPEC

PROTEST DATE	DATE AND PLACE OF STRIKE	CIVILIAN CASUALTIES	TOTALS
<u>1966</u>			
31 July	30 July Nam Ha Province, Nam Truc district, Vinh Tan commune	caused death of 10 persons, including 5 children	10/10
13 Aug.	13 Aug. Hanoi periphery, Tu Liem district	victims mostly chil- dren, including 9 under 12 years of age	/9
13 Aug.	2 Aug. Haiphong city populated quarters "such as Cam Lo, An Lac, & Thuong Ly"	killing 16 children	16/16
27 Aug.	25 Aug. Vinh Linh area, Vinh Thai commune, Thai Lai village	caused a number of casualties, including 3 pregnant women; one family lost 5 of its members	8/8
23 Sept.	20 Sept. Ha Tinh Province, Duc Tho district	Catholic priest and a number of Catholics killed	1/1
22 Oct.	21 Oct. Thai Binh Province, Thuy Anh district, Thuy Dan village	junior high school, killed 40 civilians, among them 30 pupils aged 13 to 16, a schoolmistress & two pregnant women, & wounded 6 others including 4 pupils	40/46

CONFIDENTIAL